No woman may approach his silent Court:
Therefore to's seemeth it a needfull course,
Before we enter his forbidden gates,
To know his pleasure, and in that behalfe
Bold of your worthinesse, we single you,
As our best mouing faire soliciter;
Tell him, the daughter of the King of France,
On serious businesse craving quicke dispatch,
Importunes personall conference with his grace.
Haste, signifie so much while we attend,
Like humble visag'd suters his high will.
Boy, Proud of imployment, willingly I goe. *Exit.*
Prin. All pride is willing pride, and yours is so:
Who are the Votaries my louing Lords, that are vowfellowes,
with this vertuous Duke?
Lor. Longauill is one.
Princ. Know you the man?
1 *Lady*. I know him Madame at a marriage feast,
Betweene L. *Perigort* and the beauteous heire
Of *Iaques Fauconbridge* solemnized.
In *Normandie* saw I this *Longauill*,
A man of soueraigne parts he is esteem'd:
Well fitted in Arts, glorious in Armes:
Nothing becomes him ill that he would well.
The onely soile of his faire vertues glosse,
If vertues glosse will staine with any soyle,
Is a sharpe wit match'd with too blunt a Will:
Whose edge hath power to cut whose will still wills,
It should none spare that come within his power.
Prin. Some merry mocking Lord belike, is't so?
Lad. 1. They say so most, that most his humors know.
Prin. Such short liu'd wits doe wither as they grow.
Who are the rest?
2. *Lad.* The yong *Dumaine*, a well accomplisht youth,
Of all that Vertue loue, for Vertue loued,
Most power to doe most harme, least knowing ill:
For he hath wit to make an ill shape good,
And shape to win grace though she had no wit.
I saw him at the Duke *Alansoes* once,

And

And much too litle of that good I
Is my report to his great worthine
Rossa. Another of the Students a
Was there with him as I haue hear
Berowne they call him, but a merri
Within the Limit of becomming m
I neuer spent an houres talke witha
His eye begets occasion for his wit
For euery obiect that the one doth
The other turnes to a mirth-mouin
Which his faire tongue (conceits e
Deliuers in such apt and gracious w
That aged eares play truant at his
And yonger hearings are quite raui
So sweet and voluble is his discours
Prin. God blesse my Ladies, are
That euery one her owne hath garn
With such bedecking ornaments o
Ma. Heere comes *Boyet.*

Enter Boy

Prin. Now, what admittance Lo
Boyet. Nauar had notice of you
And he and his competitors in oath,
Were all addrest to meete you gentl
Before I came: marry thus much I h
He rather meanes to lodge you in th
Like one that comes heere to besieg
Then seeke a dispensation for his oat
To let you enter his vnpeopled hous

Enter Nauar, Longauill, Du

Heere comes *Nauar.*
Nau. Faire Princesse, welcom to
Prin. Faire I giue you backe agai
yet: the roose of this Court is too hig
to the wide fields, too base to be mi
Nau. You shall be welcome Mad
Prin. I will be welcome then. C

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* (STC 22295) LONDON, 1631 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (JA 37